	Application No.	**Applicant(s)**
Notice of Allowability	09/713,292	WALLACE ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Benjamin R. Bruckart	2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the interview on 3-28-06.*

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1, 3-28, 30-44 renumbered to claims 1-42.*

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

     a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

     * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

     (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

     (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

     Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *20060328* .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview and email with Thomas Anderson on 3/28/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims starting on the next pages:

1 (Currently Amended).   An internet customer access system comprising:

a redirect receiving unit for receiving a redirected customer ~~web site access~~ request <u>for</u>

<u>access to a web site</u> from a name server and generating a request for a capacity determination for

the web site;

a capacity determination unit for determining if the web site has capacity to handle an

additional customer;

a notification unit for notifying the customer if the web site currently has insufficient

capacity<u>, wherein the notification unit comprises a scheduling processor for scheduling access of</u>

<u>the customer to the web site</u>; and

a redirect unit for redirecting the customer to the web site if <u>the web site has</u> sufficient

capacity ~~is found~~, <u>whereupon the customer then communicates directly with the web site without</u>

<u>further intervention by the internet customer access system.</u>

~~wherein the internet customer access system is independent from the web site.~~

2 (Cancelled).

3 (Original).   The internet customer access system of claim ~~2~~<u>1</u>, further comprising a customer

identification unit for determining whether a customer has scheduled access to a web site.

4 (Previously Presented).   The internet customer access system of claim 3, wherein the

scheduling processor comprises means for attaching a tag to a customer system.

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5 (Original).   The internet customer access system of Claim 4, wherein the tag comprises an encrypted cookie.

6 (Previously Presented).   The internet customer access system of claim 4, wherein the customer identification unit comprises means for detecting the tag attached to the customer system and means for removing the tag from the customer system.

7 (Original).   The internet customer access system of claim 3, wherein the notification unit comprises an update processor for informing a customer access system already possessing a tag of current accessibility status.

8 (Original).   The internet customer access system of claim 2̶1, wherein the scheduling processor comprises means for providing appointment slots.

9 (Original).   The internet customer access system of claim 3, wherein the scheduling processor comprises means for providing the customer with a position in a queue and means for providing an estimated service time.

10 (Original).   The internet customer access system of claim 9, wherein the notification unit comprises means for providing a customer with an updated place in the queue.

11 (Original). The internet customer access system of claim 1, wherein the notification unit comprises means for notifying a customer that the site is full.

12 (Original). The internet customer access system of claim 1, wherein the notification unit comprises means for notifying a customer that replay options are available.

13 (Currently Amended).   An internet customer access system comprising:

        a redirect receiving unit for receiving a redirected customer ~~web site access~~ request for access to a web site from a name server and generating a request for a capacity determination for the web site;

        a capacity determination unit for determining if the web site has the capacity to handle an additional customer;

        a redirect unit for redirecting the customer to the web site if the web site has sufficient capacity, whereupon the customer then communicates directly with the web site without further intervention by the internet customer access system;

        a scheduling processor for scheduling access of the customer to the web site if the capacity determination unit indicates that no current capacity exists; and

        a customer identification unit for determining whether the customer has scheduled access to the web site, wherein the redirect unit redirects the customer to the web site based on the scheduled access if the web site has sufficient capacity.

        ~~wherein the internet customer access system is independent from the web site.~~

14 (Original). The internet customer access system of claim 13, wherein the scheduling processor comprises means for attaching a tag to a customer system.

15 (Original). The internet customer access system of 14, wherein the tag is an encrypted cookie.

16 (Previously Presented).   The internet customer access system of claim 15, wherein the customer identification unit comprises means for detecting the encrypted cookie attached to the customer system and means for removing the encrypted cookie from the customer system.

17 (Original). The internet customer access system of claim 14, further comprising a notification unit having an update processor for informing a customer access system already possessing a tag of current accessibility status.

18 (Original). The internet customer access system of claim 14, wherein the scheduling processor comprises means for providing appointment slots.

19 (Original). The internet customer access system of claim 14, wherein the scheduling processor comprises means for providing the customer with a position in a queue and means for providing an estimated service time.

20 (Original). The internet customer access system of claim 13, further comprising a notification unit having means for notifying a customer that the site is full.

21 (Currently Amended). A method for regulating access to a web site, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a redirected customer ~~web site access~~ request for access to a web site from a name server, wherein the redirected ~~customer website~~ access request is received at an internet customer access system ~~that is independent from the web site~~;

determining whether the web site has sufficient capacity to accommodate an additional customer;

redirecting the customer to the web site if the web site has sufficient capacity ~~is found~~, whereupon the customer then communicates directly with the web site without further intervention by the internet customer access system; and

notifying the customer and scheduling customer access[1] if the web site has insufficient capacity ~~is found~~.

22 (Original). The method of claim 21, comprising notifying the customer that replay options are available.

23 (Original). The method of claim 21, further comprising determining whether the customer has a tag.

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[1] Incorporating "scheduling" feature from claim 29.

24 (Original). The method of claim 23, further comprising determining whether the tag is valid.

25 (Original). The method of claim 24, further comprising redirecting the customer to the web site if the tag is valid.

26 (Original). The method of claim 23, further comprising determining if the tag is expired.

27 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 26, further comprising performing scheduling operations if the tag is expired and providing the customer with an updated status if the tag is not expired.

28 (Original). The method of claim 21, wherein redirecting the customer to the web site comprises the steps of determining if the customer has a tag and removing the tag if present.

29 (Cancelled).

30 (Original). The method of claim 2921, wherein scheduling comprises providing the customer with a position in a queue.

31 (Original). The method of claim 2921, wherein scheduling comprises providing the customer with an appointment.

32 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim ~~29~~21, wherein scheduling comprises leaving a tag on a customer system and providing the customer with a finite time for which the tag is valid.

33 (Original). The method of claim ~~29~~21, further comprising determining whether a visitor has previously scheduled access to the web site.

34 (Original). The method of claim 33, further comprising providing a customer with updated position information.

35 (Original). The method of claim 33, further comprising offering a cancellation and rescheduling option upon providing updated position information.

36 (Currently Amended).   A method for regulating access to a web site, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a redirected customer ~~web site access~~ request <u>for access to a web site</u> from a name server, wherein the redirected ~~customer website~~ access request is received at a<u>n internet</u> <u>customer access</u> system ~~that is independent from the web site~~;

determining if the web site has sufficient capacity to handle an additional customer;

            redirecting the customer to the web site if the web site has sufficient capacity, whereupon

the customer then communicates directly with the web site without further intervention by the

internet customer access system;

        scheduling access of the customer to the web site if the web site has insufficient capacity

is found; and

        determining whether a customer has previously scheduled access to the web site,

wherein, if the customer has the previously scheduled access, the customer is redirected to the

web site according to the previously scheduled access if the web site has sufficient capacity.

37 (Original). The method of claim 36, wherein scheduling access comprises scheduling an

appointment for the customer.

38 (Original). The method of claim 36, wherein scheduling access comprises assigning the

customer a position in a queue.

39 (Original). The method of claim 36, wherein scheduling access comprises providing the

customer with a tag.

40 (Original). The method of claim 36, further comprising redirecting the customer to the web

site if sufficient capacity is found.

41 (Original). The method of claim 36, wherein determining whether a customer has previously scheduled access to the web site comprises determining whether a customer has a tag.

42 (Original). The method of claim 41, further comprising redirecting the customer to the web site if the tag is valid.

43 (Original). The method of claim 42, further comprising performing scheduling operations if the tag is expired.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, further comprising performing update processing if the tag is not yet valid and is not yet expired.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1, 13, 21, and 36 renumbered to 1, 12, 20 and 34; among other things; teach the limitations "a redirect receiving unit for receiving a redirected customer request for access to a web site from a name server and generating a request for a capacity determination for the web site; a capacity determination unit for determining if the web site has capacity to handle an additional customer; a notification unit for notifying the customer if the web site currently has insufficient capacity, wherein the notification unit comprises a scheduling processor for scheduling access of the customer to the web site; and

a redirect unit for redirecting the customer to the web site if the web site has sufficient capacity, whereupon the customer then communicates directly with the web site without further intervention by the internet customer access system" in an Internet customer access system environment.

The examiner relies on the independence of the internet customer access system once capacity is determined and redirection is made as depicted in Fig. 1 of the application specition in which the arrows show the independent pathways of communication between the client, website and internet customer access system. Applicant further defines the application to include scheduling of the client to access a website utilizes tags, encrypted cookies, and queuing the access request.

The prior art does not teach the cited limitation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
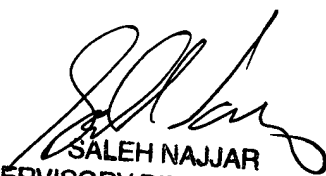
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin R. Bruckart whose telephone number is (571) 272-3982. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30PM with every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Examiner
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